

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 INR-07 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

/055 W

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R 271315Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7981

INFO M/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 698

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

S E C R E T BLANTYRE 0629

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, MZ, MI

SUBJ: PRES BANDA WARNS MALAWI BUSINESSMEN TO PREPARE FOR EFFECT
OF SANCTIONS

1. SUMMARY. GDS. ON MAY 21 PRES BANDA CONVOKED KEY
MALAWI BUSINESSMEN TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF RHODESIAN SANCTIONS
FOR MALAWI. HE INDICATED SANCTIONS WOULD BE IMPOSED BY MOZAMBIQUE
AND ORDERED BUSINESSMEN TO PREPARE NOW TO UTILIZE ALTERNATIVE
SUPPLY LINES THAN THOSE RUNNING THROUGH RHODESIA. HE ALSO
ORDERED THEM TO LAY UP IMMEDIATELY THREE MONTHS' SUPPLY OF
ESSENTIAL STOCKS AND SUPPLIES. END SUMMARY.

2. GDS. ON MAY 21 BANDA SUMMONED SOME 100 KEY MALAWI
BUSINESSMEN (INCLUDING EXPATRIATE FIRM MANAGERS). AFTER FIRST
ENSURING THAT NO MEMBERS OF PRESS WERE PRESENT, BANDA DEMANDED
THAT WHAT HE WOULD SAY BE KEPT IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE WITH NO
ATTRIBUTION TO HIMSELF. HE THEN SAID THAT MOZAMBIQUE WOULD
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APPLY SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA AND THAT IT WOULD BE ONLY PRUDENT

FOR MALAWI FIRMS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO RE-ROUTE ALL SHIPMENTS VIA LINES OTHER THAN THOSE THROUGH RHODESIA. HE SPECIFICALLY ENCOURAGED USE NACALA RATHER THAN BEIRA PORT AND ORDERED ALL FIRMS IMMEDIATELY TO LAY UP THREE MONTHS' SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL STOCKS. HAVING SAID THIS, BANDA REITERATED THAT NO ONE WAS TO PUT "WORDS IN MY MOUTH" CITING HIM AS SOURCE OF STATEMENT THAT SANCTIONS BY MOZAMBIQUE WOULD BE IMPOSED. BANDA THEN SUMMARILY LEFT GROUP.

3. GDS. BANDA DID NOT GIVE PRECISE DATE SANCTIONS WOULD APPLY OR INDICATE THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OFFICIALLY BY FRELIMO THAT THIS ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN. BEGIN XGDS-1. ON MAY 20 BANDA INDICATED TO UK HIGH COMMISSION OFFICIAL THAT HE HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHAT MALAWI'S POSITION WOULD BE RE RHODESIAN SANCTIONS BUT THAT, GIVEN PREFERENCE, HE WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TRADE WITH RHODESIA AS MEANS TO "CONTACT AND DIALOGUE". END XGDS-1.

4. GDS. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NOTED RISING CONCERN IN MALAWI WITH EFFECT OF SANCTIONS ON MALAWI ECONOMY. AFFECTED IS NOT ONLY TRADE WITH RHODESIA BUT TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA (MALAWI'S CURRENT LARGEST TRADING PARTNER) MUCH OF WHICH UTILIZES RHODESIA RAIL SYSTEM. WANKIE ANTHRACITE ALSO IS KEY FUEL ELEMENT IN MALAWI TEA AND CEMENT MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES. EMB IS PREPARING MORE COMPLETE ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACT ON MALAWI FOR SUBMISSION WITHIN NEXT WEEK.
STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESSMEN, PRESIDENT, SANCTIONS, STOCKPILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BLANTY00629
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750184-1040
From: BLANTYRE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750515/aaaaamwu.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRES BANDA WARNS MALAWI BUSINESSMEN TO PREPARE FOR EFFECT OF SANCTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, RH, MZ, MI, (BANDA, H KAMUZU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006